

HA-971

Corbin Grafton House
909 Deer Creek Church Road
Chestnut Hill vicinity
Private

ca. 1850

The Corbin Grafton House appears on the 1878 Martenet Map of Harford County. According to the Portrait and Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties (1897), Grafton bought the farm in 1840 and was still living there in 1897. The existence of a circa 1850 house is therefore probable.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Corbin Grafton House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

909 Deer Creek Church Road

CITY, TOWN

Chestnut Hill

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED☒ not applicable

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

F. Pierce Grafton

Telephone #: 838-6347

STREET & NUMBER

909 Deer Creek Church Road

CITY, TOWN

Forest Hill

☐ VICINITY OFSTATE, zip code
MD 21050**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 508

Folio #: 337

STREET & NUMBER

22 West Courtland Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

MD

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

HA-971

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Corbin Grafton House is a two story frame house with shed porches and aluminum siding which was built about 1850 and is located on the east side of Deer Creek Church Road about 1/4 mile northeast of Deer Creek Methodist Church (HA-874) near Chestnut Hill, Harford County, Maryland. The main elevation faces west.

The house consists of two main sections, the principal one with its gable roof on a north-south axis and the second a wing adjoining the first section perpendicularly at the northeast corner. A later shed addition fills in the angle between the two sections. The shed porches extend across the west elevation, continuing around the northwest corner and along the north elevation. A third porch is located on the east elevation across the adjoining walls of the shed addition and the wing. The porches have corrugated metal roofs and plain support posts. Brick interior end chimneys rise from the slate roof in both the main section and the east end of the wing. Most windows are 6/6 and the exterior is covered with aluminum siding.

The current owners believe the house was originally built about 1850, stating that the corner posts are rough, hand-hewn logs. The mid-19th century house is buried within the present building, virtually indistinguishable from the more apparent late 19th century house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Corbin Grafton House appears on the 1878 Martenet Map of Harford County. According to the Portrait and Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties (1897), Grafton bought the farm in 1840 and was still living there in 1897. The existence of a circa 1850 house is therefore probable.

NOTE: HA-971 was originally assigned to Robert & Ellen Sellers' Ford. Information on this site is consolidated with HA-970, Robert Sellers House.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

NA-971
Portrait & Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties, Chapman
Publishing Co., Chicago, 1897 (Pratt Library and Maryland Historical Soc.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janet Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Dept. of Planning & Zoning

DATE

April 1984

STREET & NUMBER

45 So. Main St.

TELEPHONE

(301) 838-6000, ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

MD 21014

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson belong. A few years ago, when the new edifice was erected, he was treasurer of the building committee having its construction in charge. He has also held the office of steward, and is now superintendent of the Sunday-school. Politically he has not allied himself with either of the prominent political parties, but maintains an independence of opinion that finds expression in the support of the best man for office, irrespective of party ties.



JOSEPH T. ENGLAND. A representative of the class of farmers to whom the world is indebted for its prosperity. Mr. England is pursuing his chosen calling with energy and perseverance. In every movement that is likely to advance the material and moral welfare of the people of Cecil County, he is always ready to bear his part, and for many years he has been connected with the agricultural development of District No. 9. Having followed farming throughout his entire life, he has acquired a thorough practical knowledge of all its departments and has become known as one of the successful farmers of the vicinity. He is the owner of the old family homestead, which consists of three hundred and fifteen acres, and contains all the improvements so necessary to the proper management of a first-class estate.

On the property that now belongs to him, Mr. England was born in 1821, being a son of Isaac, and grandson of John, and great-grandson of Samuel England, who in turn was the son of an Englishman, the founder of the family in America. Isaac England was born on the homestead, to the cultivation of which he gave all the years of his active life. Though having few opportunities, he yet was a well-informed man, and his sound common sense was visible in all his actions. Politically he advocated Democratic principles. His life was prolonged to an age at-

tained by few and was brought to a close when he was ninety-two years and seven months. His wife, Maria, was a daughter of Reuben Haines, of District No. 9, and they were the parents of five children, namely: Hannah P., Joseph T., Reuben H., Mary E. (deceased) and Deborah.

From the age of eighteen, when he completed his education, Joseph T. England gave his attention to farm work. He has known no other home than his present place, and its excellent condition bears testimony to his energy and good judgment. He keeps abreast with every advance made in agriculture and has placed first-class improvements upon his estate. His political views bring him into sympathy with the Democratic party and he generally votes for the men and measures brought forward on that ticket. However, he has not been active in political matters, preferring to devote himself to his private duties. In 1850 he was united in marriage with Mary A. Alexander, who is an attendant at the Presbyterian Church. Mr. England's people were of the Quaker faith and were members of the Friends' Church. Their three children are named as follows: Isaac, Leroy and Helen, wife of Clifford Cook, of Lancaster County, Pa.



CORBIN GRAFTON has for nearly sixty years made his home upon a farm in District No. 3, Harford County, and this tract, which comprises about ninety acres, he still continues to cultivate. Born near his present home, July 31, 1820, he has been a lifelong resident of this locality, and has seen the wonderful changes that cultivation has made in the country. He has seen many people come and go, but whatever the changes, he has continued his pleasant relations with all, for he is by nature a man who easily makes and retains friends.

Mr. Grafton represents the fourth generation in descent from the founder of the family in this country, an Englishman, who settled about two miles from Chestnut Hill. James, father of Cor-

bin, and son of William Grafton, was a carpenter by trade, and followed his occupation in this district throughout his whole life. By his marriage to Phoebe Grafton, three children were born, namely: Jesse; Bennett, who died on the old homestead in 1891, at the age of eighty-five; and Corbin. The last-named had few advantages when he was a boy, as at an early age he was obliged to begin work for himself. For some time he worked in the employ of various farmers of the neighborhood. Meanwhile he saved his earnings until he was enabled, in 1840, to purchase a farm of his own, and then he bought the place near Chestnut Hill, where he has since resided.

The marriage of Mr. Grafton took place in 1839, his wife being Miss Eliza Ward, a native of Harford County, and a lady of amiable character. Three children came to bless their union. The eldest, Mary, is the wife of Lee Bowman; the only son, James O., resides on the home place, the cultivation of which is now largely in his charge; and the youngest of the family is Margaret C., the widow of Samuel Tucker. The family are identified with the Methodist Protestant Church, to the maintenance of which Mr. Grafton contributes. Honest and upright, he gives to all what is due in just measure, and accords to every man what he claims for himself, the right to his own opinions.

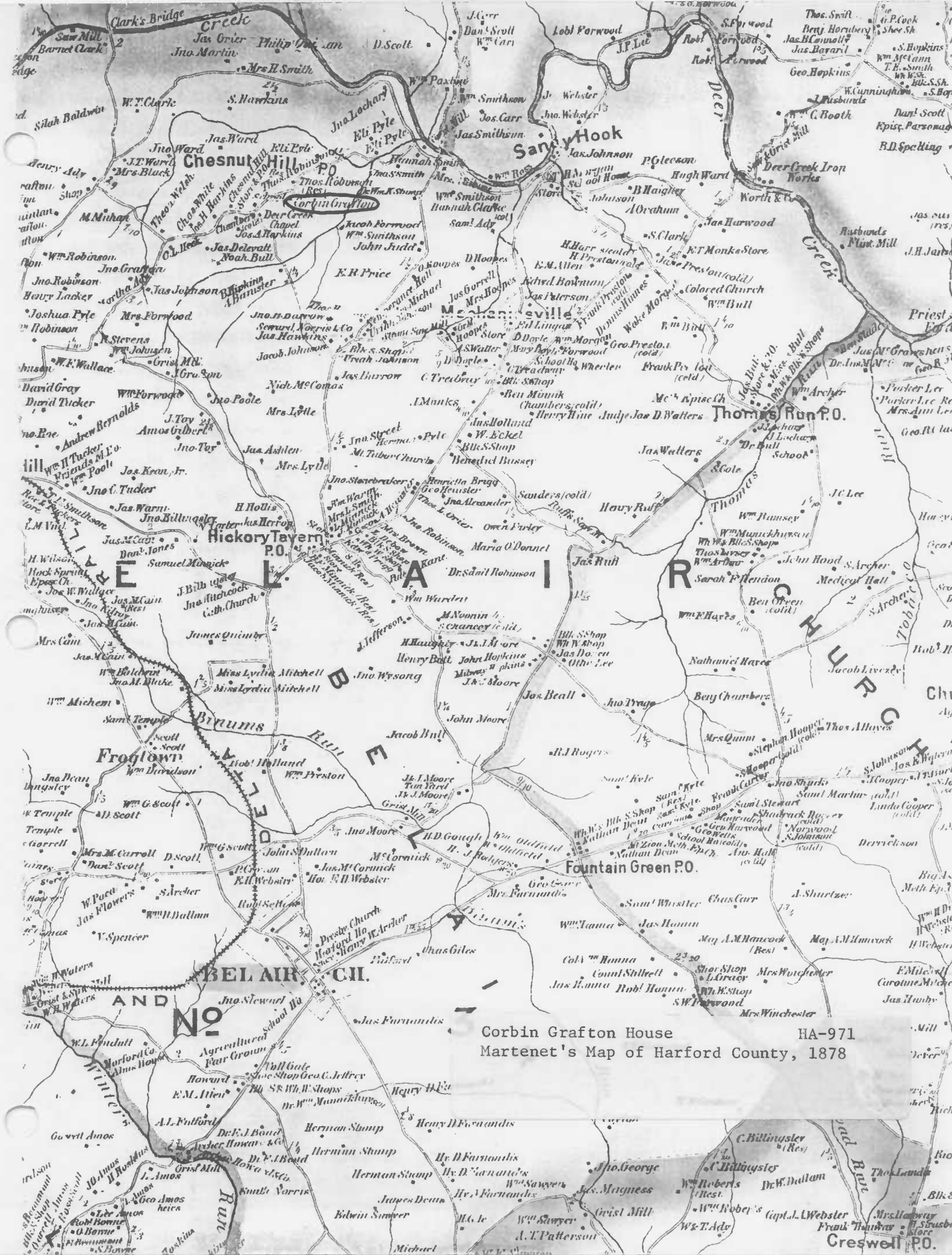


HON. T. LITTLETON HANWAY. The name borne by this well-known citizen of Aberdeen is one that is honored throughout the entire extent of Harford County. The family has been an influential one in this part of the state, where three successive generations have resided, each contributing to the growth and development of local interests, and giving to their community men of energy, industry and wise judgment. Under all circumstances they have borne their part as law-abiding citizens, whose aim it has been to promote the welfare of county

and state. Nor has the subject of our sketch been less active in this respect than other members of the family. His influence and prominence may be judged, not alone from the fact that he has for years been a successful merchant of Aberdeen, but even more from the fact that he has been chosen by the people of his district to represent them in the legislature of the state.

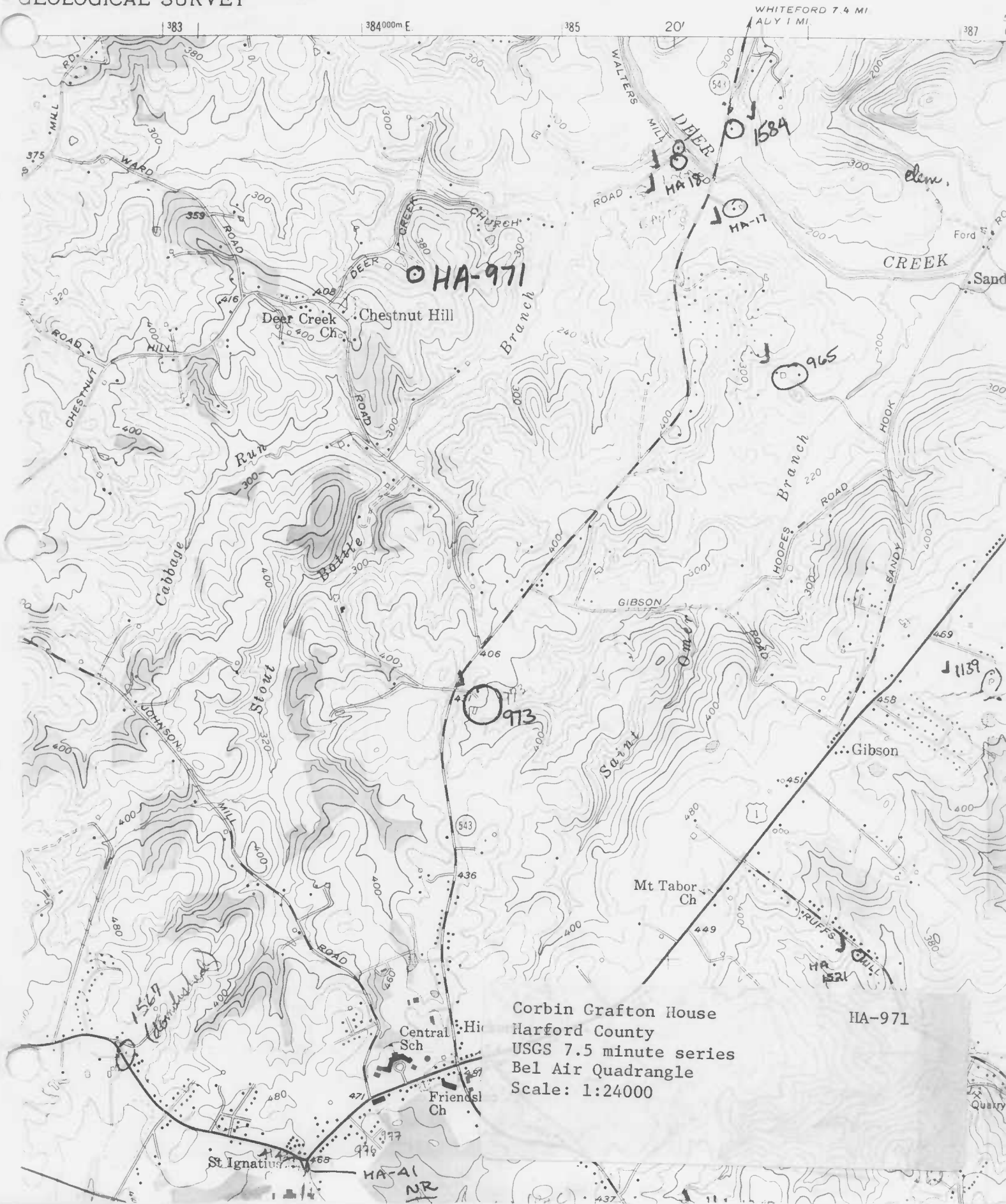
In 1846, when the present village of Aberdeen was known by the name of Hall's Cross Roads, the subject of this sketch was born here, to the union of Thomas and Sarah Ann (Keen) Hanway. His father was born and reared in District No. 4, Harford County, and when a young man came to Aberdeen, where he opened a general mercantile store, though at the same time continuing as a farmer. In 1847 he removed to Creswell, District No. 1, where he was engaged in merchandising and farming until his death, at sixty-five years of age. While he never cared to hold public office, he was well posted regarding current events and was a staunch Democrat. From his father, who was an Englishman, he inherited the determination of will characteristic of that race, and doubtless it was due to this quality that he became well-to-do. His wife, who was born in what is now Aberdeen, is still living in this village, and at the age of eighty-three, is in possession of her mental and physical faculties.

Educated in the public schools and the academy at Bel Air, the subject of this sketch, at the age of twenty, went to Wilmington, Del., where he became a clerk in the leather department of the manufactory of H. S. McCombs. After a year there the firm transferred him to Philadelphia, where he remained eighteen months. Returning to Harford County, for two years he was employed as clerk in a store at Michaelsville, and from that village came to Aberdeen in 1870, purchasing Jacob J. Gallion's store, which he still owns and has since conducted. A decided Democrat in politics, he held the office of postmaster at Aberdeen under the first administration of President Cleveland. In 1895 he was elected a member of the legislature, and during his service in that body was a member of the committees on



Corbin Grafton House HA-971
Martenet's Map of Harford County, 1878

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Corbin Grafton House
Harford County
USGS 7.5 minute series
Bel Air Quadrangle
Scale: 1:24000

HA-971



Corbin Grafton House

HA-971

Harford County

Photographer: Janet Davis

March 1984

Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust

View from east

1/2



Corbin Grafton House

HA-971

Harford County

Photographer: Janet Davis

March 1984

Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust

View from north

2/2